1. **In the Claims**. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) In a block bottom bag of the type having a tubular body defining a longitudinal axis and having ~~with~~ an open end and a closed block bottom end to define a bag having an interior surface, the body comprising multiple plies of paper including an innermost paper ply and a ply of plastic interiorly of the innermost paper ply, each of the paper plies having opposite side edges adhered to one another and the plastic ply having opposite side edges sealed to one another, and the body further having a front panel and a back panel, opposite side edges and opposed top and bottom edges to define opposed bottom corners, wherein the open end is defined by the respective top edges of the front and back panels and the top edge of the back panel extends beyond the top edge of the front panel, the improvement comprising:

in the front panel the outermost paper ply includes an extended segment extending across a portion of the front panel at the bottom edge, and the block bottom end is formed by folding the opposed bottom corners inwardly at ~~a pair of diagonal~~ fold lines that, ~~each of which~~ extends diagonally from a respective side edge to the bottom edge to thereby define an opening at the bottom of said bag, said opening ~~and a front flap and a back flap, wherein the opening is a regular rectangle having~~ defined by opposed side edges and upper and lower edges, the opening having a front flap portion and a back flap portion defined by respective first and second secondary cross bag fold lines extending between the side edges, wherein the ~~side~~ edges of all paper plies and plastic in the front flap portion of the opening are coextensive, and the ~~side~~ edges of the plastic ply in the back flap portion of the opening are aligned with the ~~side~~ edges of the opening in the front flap portion but the edges of at least one paper ply in the back flap portion are stepped outwardly relative to the edges of the plastic in said back flap portion.

2. (New) The block bottom bag according to claim 1 including a primary cross bag fold line extending between the side edges and intersecting the points where said diagonal fold lines intersect said side edges.

3. (New) The block bottom bag according to claim 2 wherein the first and second secondary cross bag fold lines extend parallel to the primary cross bag fold line and are spaced from the primary cross bag fold line on opposite sides thereof.

4. (New) The block bottom bag according to claim 3 including adhesive applied to zones bordering the opposed lateral edges of the rectangular opening and to a zone bordering the upper edge of said opening.

5. (New) The block bottom bag according to claim 4 wherein the rectangular opening is closed by folding the back flap at said second secondary cross bag fold line and securing it to said adhesive along the zones bordering the opposed lateral edges, and by folding the front flap at said first secondary fold line such that said front flap overlaps said back flap and is secured thereto.

6. (New) A method of forming a bag of the type having one open end and an opposite end of the block bottom closure type, comprising the steps of:
(a) providing a blank comprising at least an innermost paper layer and an outermost paper layer, and a plastic layer adhered to the innermost paper layer, wherein each layer of paper and the plastic layer have opposed side edges and opposed top and bottom edges;
(b) forming a pair of fold lines in the blank along a longitudinal axis to define in the blank a front panel and a back panel; wherein in the back panel the top edge of each layer of paper is offset relative to the top edge of the innermost paper layer, and in the front panel the bottom edge of each layer of paper is aligned except at an extended segment of paper in the outermost paper layer that extends beyond the edges of all other layers in the front panel;

(c) adhering the respective side edges of each layer to form a tubular member having an open bottom and an open top; and

(d) closing the bottom with a block bottom closure.

7. (New) The method according to claim 6 in which the innermost paper layer has a top and bottom edge coextensively aligned with a top and bottom edge of the plastic layer.

8. (New) The method according to claim 6 wherein step (d) includes the step of forming fold lines in both the front and back panel extending from each respective side edge to the bottom edge to thereby define a rectangular opening at the bottom end of tubular member defined by side edges and opposed upper and lower edges, said opening comprising a front flap portion and a back flap portion wherein the edges of the paper and plastic in the front flap portion are coextensive, and the edges of the plastic in the back flap portion are aligned with the edges of the front flap portion but the edges of at least one paper layer at the opening at the back flap portion are stepped laterally outwardly relative to the edges of the plastic in the back flap portion.

9. (New) The method according to claim 8 including the step of forming a primary fold line intersecting said opposed side edges at the points where said diagonal fold lines intersect said opposed side edges.

10. (New) A blank for forming a bag for containing bulk quantities of material and of the type having one open end and one closed block bottom end, comprising:

multiple paper layers including an innermost paper layer and an outermost paper layer, each layer adhered to the next adjacent layer;

a plastic layer adhered to the innermost paper layer, the plastic layer and the innermost paper layer having coextensive top and bottom edges;

said multiple layers of paper and plastic layer defining a generally rectangular blank having a longitudinal axis, wherein each layer of paper and the plastic have opposed side edges and opposed top and bottom edges;

a pair of fold lines extending along longitudinal axis to define a front panel having top and bottom edges and a back panel having top and bottom edges; and

wherein in the back panel the top edge of the outermost layer of paper is offset along the longitudinal axis relative to the top edge of the innermost paper layer, and

in the front panel the outermost layer of paper includes a stepped segment that extends across a portion of the front panel at the bottom edge, and a stepped segment that extends across a portion of the front panel at the top edge, wherein the stepped segment at the bottom edge extends beyond the bottom edges of all other layers in the front panel.

11. (New) The blank according to claim 10 wherein each side edge of each layer is offset relative to the side edges of the adjacent layer.

12. (New) The blank according to claim 11 formed into a bag defining a tubular body having an open end and a closed block bottom end, said bag formed by folding said blank at said fold lines and overlapping and adhering the respective side edges of each layer to define offset seams, and wherein said closed block bottom end defines an inner bag surface that is substantially free from exposed paper.